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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
(ILGWU)

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## Justice (Vol. 13, Iss. 9)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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### Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

### Comments

*Justice* was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

# JUSTICE

Official Organ of The International  
Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Vol. XIII. No. 9.

Jersey City, N. J., July, 1931

Price 10 Cents

## Editorial Notes

**P**RESIDENT SCHLESINGER'S visits, during the past few weeks, to Boston, Philadelphia and Toronto, the first -out-of-town trips on which he ventured since illness had overtaken him last October, will be hailed by the membership of the International as convincing proof that he has taken a firm hold of the reins of the organization and is again able to shoulder the burdens of his arduous task.

The Union, today more than ever, is faced with immense problems in every market of the women's garment industry, problems that are likely to develop into keen struggles for the preservation of labor standards and acquisitions which have taken a generation to win. President Schlesinger's guidance of the Union's destiny during this period of stress and storm in the economic life of the country is an invaluable asset and a tower of strength for the masses of our workers.

**S**LACK TIME is no novelty in the life of a cloakmaker or a dressmaker. It is part of the routine of their existence, the one thing they may always be certain of. It is as perennial as the very seasons of the year—this inescapable curse of the industry upon which they depend for a living.

There are, true, other seasonal industries in the United States, but few as restless, as subject to sudden fitful changes as ours. Uncertainty, fretful speculation always seem to be hanging over the heads of our workers, and no one within the industry appears to know how long a slack period might last and how much work the so-called busy season might bring. And in times of industrial depression, like the crisis which is now engulfing the whole country, this agonizing uncertainty becomes a double burden.

But the slack season raises special problems not only to the individual worker in and out of the shop. It brings in its wake a set of special difficulties for the Union which demand alert and vigilant handling. The temptation to violate union work rules by employers becomes greater during the slow period and, if allowed to go on unchecked, is likely to break down and to demoralize conditions in many shops. There is, besides, the danger of collusion between some workers and employers to work for cut prices, longer hours, illegitimate overtime—a practice which is extremely difficult to guard against in many instances but which must be rooted out wherever it can be detected.

It is this task of holding up conditions in all shops—together with the enforcement of equal division of work—during the slack period that is the Union's big job at this moment. The members of our organization do not have to be told that, grave and galling as it is, the slack season is the one great liability of our industry which neither the workers individually nor their Union as a group can hope to solve or remove at present. What remains to be done is to lessen its evils to a degree and to use every safeguard and defensive measure to the effect that it does not destroy labor standards in the shops. It is a duty which rests not only upon the officers but upon each and every loyal member of the Union.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

**T**HE URGENT DEMAND for organization in every dress market the country over is daily becoming more and more insistent.

### The Appeal of The Dressmakers

Leaving out, for the moment, New York, with its huge dress industry and special organizing needs and problems, this appeal for organizing campaigns comes simultaneously from centers as far apart as Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, and even Los Angeles, and it comes from the organized workers as well as from the harshly exploited workers in the non-union dress shops. Each of these dress markets has grown to large proportions within the past few years. Dress manufacturing in the above-named cities, in fact, is becoming the chief women's garment industry replacing cloak making. And in the past two years, since the current industrial stagnation has robbed so many men breadwinners of their jobs, a new element of women workers has entered the dress trade, whom the employers find even easier to exploit and to intimidate.

That the complete unionization of these important dress centers is a vital necessity is realized fully by the leadership of the Union. Work conditions in the non-union dress shops in Chicago, Philadelphia and Boston have sunk to the lowest possible level, and it is only natural that they should have a bad effect on the union shops as well. Our local unions in these cities point constantly to the fact that it is becoming increasingly harder to preserve conditions in union shops in markets that are half union and half non-union. It is, of course, being no less keenly realized at the same time that while the economic crisis lasts organizing work on a large scale is an extremely difficult proposition beset with special dangers and obstacles. But, on the other hand, the very satisfactory outcome of the recent dress strike in Toronto has proved that even under the present extraordinary conditions, a campaign called into action



with the unanimous and enthusiastic support of the rank and file of the workers can achieve substantial results.

There is little doubt that the General Executive Board will leave nothing possible undone to translate its decision "to begin campaigns at the first opportune moment" into action. It will make haste slowly, of course, and will not precipitate the Union or the workers into any movement that might invite undue risk or peril. But the voice of the dressmakers appealing for a union to protect them against unbridled exploitation and greed will not go unheeded. The International will come to their help at the ripe moment in the not distant future, let us hope, after the situations in the above indicated markets had been fully investigated by the General Officers of the Union.

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**IT IS DIFFICULT** to estimate at this moment how many Industrial Council firms will take advantage during the last week of the current month of the "reorganization" clause of the agreement—the second

**About The Second "Reorganization"** since the contract with the Council was signed in June 1929—and how many workers will actually be affected by it. If we are to judge by last year's experience, the number of discharged workers should be comparatively small, if this "reorganization" privilege is carried thru in strict accordance with the conditions under which it is permitted.

The Union, however, will take nothing for granted, and the Cloak Joint Board of New York has already taken precautionary measures against possible violations. The shop chairmen were notified to check up on every displacement in their shops and to report promptly any failure to comply with the provisions without which no "reorganization" is allowed. Among these provisions are: the employment of a staff of not less than forty workers; 32 weeks of employment during the year; no reduction in wages; a week's pay to every discharged worker; replacement of vacancies not later than on July 15 next; no discharge for union activity, and several other no less important conditions.

It is now up to the shop chairmen and to every active worker in the "inside" shops to help the Joint Board to enforce fully these provisions. If this is done, we are confident, the number of those displaced by this second "reorganization" will be limited, and the Union will not find it diffi-

cult to put them back at jobs by the time the next season begins.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

**WITHIN THE PAST** half year or so, we are told, there had been reinitiated into membership in some of our New York locals a few dozen men and women who had wandered away from our Union some five years ago intoxicated by the then rampant Communist hysteria and who had helped to organize the now practically defunct "industrial union."

### The Union Still Remembers

The reappearance of these erstwhile followers of the collapsed "left" bandwagon as members of our Union, by the grace of the "manifesto" issued by the International in 1929, which opened the doors of the Union to every worker who would undertake to be faithful and loyal to our organization, is in itself, of course, a matter of small consequence. It appears, however, that several of these "new-comers" have returned to the Union with some of their "old" baggage tucked carefully away under their clothes, and that they are starting their old demagogic game all over again. One of them even had the audacity to publish a "statement" in a Communist bulletin declaring that he had "rejoined the International to be able better to fight the 'bureaucrats' and to inaugurate a struggle for 'one great industrial union.'"

Well, as we already said, we regard the return of this handful of prodigals to our fold as of little importance on the whole. Most of them, probably, have by this time seen the error of their former ways and have learned the lesson that a trade union can only function properly and prosper through and by the loyal adherence of all its members to its basic laws and rules of conduct. The few among them, however, who had smuggled their way into our Union with dishonest motives and who are attempting again to worship their old idols and to disturb the normal life of the organization, should be reminded that our workers still vividly remember their sorry accomplishments and record of disaster in the not so distant past.

Had they possessed even a small dose of ordinary trade union decency, these mealy-mouthed heroes, they would have, now that they had been admitted back into the Union, behaved themselves like loyal union men and would have helped to repair some of the damage which they themselves had inflicted upon our organization by their wild, irresponsible antics.

## Underwear Workers Make Steady Gains

The successful drive which the underwear workers of New York, Local 62, have been making in the last few months, under the supervision of Bro. Samuel Shore, continues to make substantial headway.

During the past few weeks, four additional underwear firms settled with the Union, among these two of the most important concerns in the negligee trade, David Corn & Co., and the Spiro Underwear Co., employing more than 200 workers. The other two firms—Aronson & Kaplan and the Tri-El—employ together about 100 workers.

What is most important, however, is that the approach to the negligee shops

has at present become easier for the Union than formerly when the employers figured invariably that they had to deal with a weak organization. The manufacturers of underwear are realizing now that they are facing a strong trade union in the industry that is determined to organize it 100 per cent.

It is still slack time in the underwear shops at present, and for the time being the Union is doing largely preparatory work laying the ground for the bigger activity when the next season is at hand. There are close to ten thousand workers in this industry in New York, and

their affiliation with Local 62 is but a question of an energetic following up of the work already begun by Bro. Samuel Shore and the local's manager, Bro. Abraham Snyder.

The Union's drive, in fact, is already the chief topic of interest in the industry, both among the workers and the employers. It is felt on all sides that the coming of the next busy season will see a tremendous revival of union interest in all underwear shops and will bring along the realization of the hope to place this very important women's wear trade among the best organized divisions of the I. L. G. W. U. in New York City.

## The Month in Boston

Upon my return from the Atlantic City meeting of the G. E. B., I found that our cloak manufacturers were making an attempt to demoralize the trade by spreading propaganda among the cloak-makers that unless they start at once to work by the piece—on the sport goods, mainly the white flannel coats—they would shut down the shops and throw them out of employment. Our active workers immediately began to mobilize their strength to resist this attempt.

You will recall that a month or so ago, our employers had made a try to evade payment for a legal holiday, and how after our workers had shown a solid front on this matter, the employers were forced to retreat and to abide by the terms of the agreement. In this case, too, in the latest effort of the manufacturers to break down week-work, we started a counter-offensive against the employers by stopping off from work a few shops, the largest among them the Dorchester Mfg. Company. After a few days of wrangling with the contractors' association, we came to terms, and the adjustments made resulted to the satisfaction of every worker employed in the making of white flannel coats.

### Boston Union's Rebirth Celebrated

On May 22, the Joint Board celebrated the rebirth of the Boston organization at a ball and concert in the Bradford Hotel. It was a fine success from a moral and a financial viewpoint, and our organization wishes to thank all the locals of the International everywhere for the fine support given it through the contributions towards the finest souvenir journal ever published by the Boston cloak and dress organization.

The injunction sought by the Boston Joint Board against the union-baiting firm of Factor & Friedman has been halted for the past few weeks due to a cross libel brought by this concern against the Union claiming an "illegal" strike and a variety of other "crimes," and asking damages from the Union. This cross libel, however, after having been heard in Equity Motions' Session last week was dismissed by the sitting judge, and now we are resuming our suit which is scheduled for a hearing next week—to enjoin this firm from running a non-union shop in violation of its contract.

### Schlesinger and Ninfo in Boston

This week, our Boston organization finally realized its ambition to have with us President Schlesinger to address our

By PHILIP KRAMER,  
Joint Board Manager

meetings and to advise us on some of the pressing organizational problems confronting us here. Bro. Schlesinger who arrived here on Monday afternoon, June 15, was joined later by Vice President Ninfo who came into Boston on his way to New York from Chicago.

President Schlesinger spent a very busy two days in Boston addressing meetings and conferring with committees and boards. On Monday, June 15, he spoke before the joint executive boards of all our locals, and during the following morning he was visited by committees from practically every local who presented to him the local situation from every angle, urging him to help the Boston cloakmakers and dressmakers in their current organization activity. In view of the fact that the local agreements have but a short time to run, such organization work is highly necessary for the coming season.

On the same evening, June 15, President Schlesinger met with Pressers' Local 12, discussing with them the problems of week work, of standardizing prices for various grades of work, and other trade subjects. On Tuesday, June 16, Bro. Schlesinger and First Vice President Ninfo, addressed a big meeting of cloakmakers and dressmakers at Steinert Hall, 162 Boylston Street, right after work hours, the keynote of which was the abolition of sweat shop conditions and a counter-offensive against all such employers as are attempting to take advantage and to exploit the workers under the guise of a "general depression in industry."

A committee of the Joint Board visited President Schlesinger and placed before him the request that Bro. Max Amdur be assigned to Boston to take charge of the managerial duties of the Joint Board, so that Vice President Kramer could be relieved to carry on the impending organizing drive. President Schlesinger concurred with this request, and promised the committee that the International would assign Bro. Amdur to Boston at once to carry on jointly with Bro. Kramer the entire task of leadership in the Boston market.

The Boston cloakmakers and dressmakers wish to express to the International their gratitude for the timely visit of President Schlesinger and Bro. Ninfo. It is doubly appreciated in view of the obvious strain of such a trip on Bro. Schlesinger, connected with the addressing of so many meetings and the conferring with a number of committees.

The following officers of the cloakmakers' organization of Boston were very helpful in bringing about the recent settlement in the cloak shops and in carrying out the stoppage to resist the piece-work move of the employers: Bro. Harry Raymond, chairman of the Cloakmakers' Union, Bro. Harry Karon, vice-chairman, and chairman of the executive board, Bro. Abraham Rabinowitz, secretary. To all of them the Joint Board has given a vote of thanks for their tireless work and fine sense of loyalty.

### Vice Pres. Breslaw Visits New York

Vice President Joseph Breslaw, who has been residing in Los Angeles since July, 1930, spent the month of May in New York City, attending the quarterly meeting of the G. E. B., and visiting friends and old associates in the labor movement.

Bro. Breslaw received, while in New York, a warm and hearty reception from Local 35, the pressers' organization of which he was manager for a number of years. When he arrived in New York, he was met at the station by a delegation of several hundred pressers, and the pressers' local later arranged for him a member meeting at which he spoke. The local also arranged for him a dinner, and a group of close friends, members of Local 35, gave him another banquet.

Vice President Breslaw left early in June for Los Angeles where he represents the International and is manager of the Los Angeles cloakmakers' organization, Local 52. Bro. Breslaw, however, does not plan to stay in Los Angeles much longer, and after he has arranged his personal affairs and after the problem of selecting his successor as manager of Local 52 is settled, will return to New York.

## JUSTICE

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MAX D. DANISH, Editor

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## Bon Voyage Dinner Given Secretary Dubinsky

Upward of one hundred of I. L. G. W. U. active workers and leaders, and friends of Secretary David Dubinsky from other sectors of the Labor movement in New York, got together on Thursday, May 28, at the Hotel Pennsylvania to bid him good-bye on the eve of his leaving for Europe, on a visit to his old father, in Lodz, Poland.

The toastmaster of the evening was President Schlesinger of the International. In his opening remarks, Pres. Schlesinger gave unstinted praise to Secretary Dubinsky for the loyal and very capable service he has rendered to the I. L. G. W. U. and to the Labor movement as a whole.

Among those who spoke at the dinner were: S. Yanovsky, Adolph Held, B. C. Vladeck, B. Hoffman, Morris Rothenberg, Max Danish, Louis Schaffer, Salvatore Ninfo, Isidore Nagler, Jacob Heller, Julius Hochman, Harry Wander, Emil Schlesinger, Louis Levy, Samuel Perlmutter, Nicholas Kirtzman, Harry Kopp, Luigi Antonini, Philip Kaplowitz, Charles Kreindler, Max Amdur and Elias Reisberg.

Edward F. MacGrady greeted Bro. Dubinsky in the name of President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, whom he represented at the dinner.

### Visit to Europe Should Be Inspiration, Says Vladeck

The main address of the evening was delivered by B. C. Vladeck, general manager of the Jewish Daily Forward, whose remarks were received with warm approval. Vladeck drew a graphic picture of the difficult times the labor movement was passing through and said that it was only thanks to the energy and loyalty of such leaders as Dubinsky that the movement is forging ahead despite tremendous obstacles. Vladeck also extolled Dubinsky's cordial and friendly relations with all the other branches of the movement, and expressed the hope that Dubinsky's visit to Europe would bring him closer to the labor movement in the old world and would serve for him as a source of renewed energy and inspiration.

A number of telegrams were received from several I. L. G. W. U. organizations in other cities, all stressing their friendship and respect to Secretary Dubinsky. A warm message came from Morris Hillquit in which Brother Dubinsky's role in the labor movement was eulogized. Abraham Cahan, editor of the Jewish Daily Forward, sent a telegram in which he praised Dubinsky's courage and his bluntness in stating his

views and opinions even though they at times might not be popular.

Several gifts were given the departing secretary of the I. L. G. W. U., among these a leather traveling bag from the Cloakmakers' Joint Board, a wrist watch from Cutters' Union, Local 10, an exquisite leather wallet and key purse from the General Office staff, and a traveling writing pad from the Philadelphia dressmakers.

Mrs. Dubinsky, who was present at the banquet, received several bouquets of flowers.

Secretary Dubinsky concluded the evening by offering thanks to all those who "had honored him by coming to say fare-

well" and stated that he was doubly thankful for the fact that President Schlesinger's health has improved sufficiently to make it possible for him to make the journey. Concerning Vladeck's remark that he has managed at all times to keep on friendly terms with every section of the labor movement, Dubinsky declared that he could never forget the truly wonderful cooperation given by the labor movement to the International in time of need, which enabled it to regain its strength and take its place once more in the vanguard.

Secretary Dubinsky was given an ovation when he concluded his farewell remarks.

## 1931 Unity House Season in Full Swing

The new vacation season at Unity House, the great I. L. G. W. U. recreation and rest center in the Pocono Mountains, offering all "camp activities with the comforts of a finest hotel," began this week, on June 21, under the management of Vice President Jacob Halperin and associate manager, Morris Novik.

An excellent concert, headed by the Compinski Trio, and preceded by short addresses of welcome to the assembled by Vice President Isidore Nagler, Chairman of the Unity House Committee, and by President Benj. Schlesinger, marked the official beginning of the season. This was followed by dancing in the main dance hall under the strains of choice music rendered by Unity's own marvelous group of musicians under the command of Ed. Geller.

The management of Unity House anticipates a record-breaking season in view of the extraordinary improvements made at the House. The 500 persons who spent the Decoration Day week-end at Unity, it would seem, have done such a marvelous job of Unity's new comforts, and of its splendidly improvised cuisine and dining room service under the direction of Ben Schindler, that its advance registration is already exceeding all former figures for this time of the season. And one must always bear in mind that Unity House is not a profit-making institution and that a guest at Unity, therefore, gets almost two dollars' worth of comfort, service and attention for each dollar spent there.

Reservations and registration should be made through the Unity House offices in New York, 3 West 16th Street, Miss

Fannia M. Cohn in charge, or in Philadelphia, office of Local 50, 52 North 10th Street.

### Fine Educational Program Prepared

As a matter of tradition, Unity House strives to give its vacationists not only material comforts and enjoyment but a generous measure of cultural and spiritual entertainment in the form of lectures, concerts, dances, and literary mornings. This year, the Educational Department of the I. L. G. W. U. has also prepared a lecture program for Unity covering a number of literary and social science subjects.

Among these lecturers will be Waldo Frank, well-known author; Dr. N. B. Fagin, of Johns Hopkins; Elias L. Tartak, Bruce Bliven, of the New Republic, Alexander Fichandler, and many others.

Mr. Tartak's first group of lectures will be on The Crisis of Our Civilization, in addition to two lectures on Dostoyevsky, the fiftieth anniversary of whose death was recently commemorated by the world of letters. Mr. Tartak's lectures will follow in this order: 1) F. M. Dostoyevsky, artist and psychologist; 2) F. M. Dostoyevsky, philosopher and social thinker; 3) Prophets of Destruction (Oswald Spengler and Paul Valeri); 4) The Possible Downfall of Our Civilization — The Downfall of Greece and Rome.

Dr. Fagin will lecture on Old and New in American Literature, stressing the point that American literature has always reflected currents in American life.

All lectures and all social and recreational activities are free to Unity House guests.

# News and Events in Local 22

We are now in a somewhat better position to write about the condition and outlook of our Union than what we were a month ago, when we made public our first report.

At that time, we were largely prompted in what we said, by hope and fervent wishes. Today, after being in the office six weeks, we have already seen some of our plans carried out. And in the light of what we have thus far achieved, meager as it may have been, we shall continue to report our progress along the lines indicated in the last issue of "Justice."

## We Must Rely Upon Our Own Strength

Our assertion that the organization cannot hope to effect any concrete improvements without the full cooperation of the membership, is confirmed by the editorial comment in the June issue of "Gerechtigkeit" on the outcome of the strike of Local 38, which says that our Union must henceforth rely upon its own strength, and not place too much reliance upon a mythical "public opinion." Public opinion, which we at one time considered to be very influential in the adjustment of labor disputes, has ceased to exert that influence which it enjoyed formerly. "Hence the workers must organize themselves and strengthen their organization, especially since the employers are already making plans for the next struggle." We welcome this declaration as a logical conclusion based upon past experience and as a departure from a trade union ideology which gained little and contributed to the loss of interest in the organization on the part of our members.

## Enthusiastic Meetings

During the past few weeks, the writer attended no less than a dozen district shop chairmen meetings. The reception accorded our plan, to inaugurate permanent district shop chairmen organizations, has exceeded our expectations. With practically no exception, the chairmen agreed that such organizations will fill a much needed gap in the structure of our Union, and pledged their full cooperation.

At the present writing, definite plans are being formulated for the second district chairmen meetings, at which, in addition to the routine business to be transacted, constructive plans for the approaching season will be discussed.

The same enthusiasm, the same renewed spirit witnessed at the district shop chairmen meetings, manifested

MAX BLUESTEIN,  
Secretary-Treasurer

itself also at the last General Member meeting, which was held on the 4th of June, and the section meetings which were held on June 18. For the first time in many years, we succeeded in establishing three additional sections, viz., Downtown, N. Y., Coney Island, and Harlem. The attendance at all section meetings was very gratifying. The Bronx section meeting alone was attended by over 400 members.

At all these meetings, in the various offices, and in the dress "market" where our members congregate, one hears and sees unmistakable signs of the revival of the once militant spirit of the old Dressmakers' Union; an eagerness to learn and to become acquainted with the plans which the Union is now putting into shape for the coming season. This awakening is remarkable, particularly we believe, in view of the present economic plight of our members.

## Some of Our Problems

The outstanding problems which are engaging the attention of our Executive Board at this time are:

- (1) The Unionization of "open" shops;
- (2) The establishment of craft units;
- (3) The establishment of language groups;
- (4) The solution for our financial ills;
- (5) Harmonizing of all these plans for the benefit of the individual members.

A brief comment upon some of these points is in order.

We all agree upon the proposition that there is only one way in which we can improve the conditions and earnings of our members, and that is through organizing the "open" shops. To be more specific, unless and until we put a stop to the competition between one worker and another, we can never hope to raise the standards of our members. This, admittedly, is nothing new. Others before us had said the same things and had probably attempted to do something along these lines. The difference with us, however, is that while heretofore the membership at large has expected these herculean tasks to be accomplished through the paid officers of the organization, we now tell our members in very frank terms, that unless they themselves, in cooperation with the paid officers and active members of the Union, take a hand in the solution of this problem, they need not hope for any practical achievement.

## New Organization Dep't. Head Getting Busy

Brother Abraham Staum, the new manager of the Organization Department, has submitted an outline of activities which will require the cooperation of the business agents. The shop chairmen, in turn, would be responsible to their business agent, and in such fashion there would be established a close contact and cooperation with the most active elements within our industry. The details of Bro. Staum's plan will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the organization. For the time being, we must have confidence in ourselves, and in the ability of our organization to tide over its present difficult position.

The second question, namely the one relating to the craft organizations, is likewise of great importance. The crafts composing the local membership consist of operators, finishers, drapers, cleaners, and examiners. The first craft—operators—outnumber all others by a vast majority. Because of their predominance it naturally follows that all other crafts, except the operators, are sadly neglected.

Our Executive Board has in mind to ameliorate this condition by organizing special craft units. By this step, it is hoped to improve their lot, and at the same time to awaken their interest in all the activities of the Union.

The third problem—that of language units—is similarly important. English is the official language of the organization. Unfortunately, because most of our Jewish-speaking members must resort to their native tongue at the meetings, and because of the drift of a large number of Latin-speaking groups into the industry, and into our Union during the past few years, there is a decided lack in coherence and common understanding at our meetings, which works to the disadvantage of the organization. We plan, therefore, to establish within the very near future several language groups at which our members would be approached in their native tongues and, in such manner, bind closer the tie between the various national groups.

The financial problem is, without question, the most difficult of all.

There is no immigration today. The newly admitted applicants, of whom there are a considerable number, are the dropped out members of yesterday, with the result that what we receive now in initiation fees is practically made up of what we miss in our dues receipts. Hence the shrinking of the income. Our expenses, on the other hand, have not decreased in proportion to the receipts. That makes the solution of this problem still more difficult. Our Finance Committee and our Executive Board have under consideration several propositions in connection with this problem.



## Ninfo's Visit Inspires Chicago Dressmakers

The news that Vice President Salvatore Ninfo is coming to Chicago, to look into the dressmakers' situation in accordance with the decision of the General Executive Board at the Atlantic City meeting, created a feeling of genuine satisfaction among the Chicago dressmakers.

A series of meetings was at once arranged for Bro. Ninfo in order that he might without loss of time plunge into the work immediately upon his arrival. Bro. Ninfo, during his stay in our city, met with the chairladies of the organized dress shops, with the Executive Board of Local 100, the dressmakers' local, and with the Board of the Cutters' Local, No. 81. He also conferred with a number of committees, all of whom expressed to him the fervent wish of the local dressmakers that the International begin at the earliest moment the drive to organize the dress trade of Chicago.

On the whole, Bro. Ninfo's visit and the thought that something on a substantial scale is imminent in Chicago, has tended to bolster up the spirits of our active workers in the dress organization here, among them the cutters, and it was truly felt that the enthusiasm created among them could achieve wonders in

By Vice President MORRIS BIALIS,  
Manager Chicago Joint Board

organizing results, if it is kept up and logically pushed forward.

On Thursday, June 11, we had here a mass meeting of dressmakers which crowded the hall to capacity. The writer of these lines was chairman, and the chief speaker of the evening was Bro. Ninfo, who delivered a splendid address which produced a profound impression upon all present. He assured the dressmakers that the International does not regard them as "step children," and that his recommendation to Pres. Schlesinger would be the immediate beginning of a campaign to "save the dressmakers from the horrible conditions of semi-slavery under which they are compelled to work."

### Dressmakers Thank Bro. Ninfo

The meeting adopted a resolution thanking Vice President Ninfo for his excellent analysis of the Chicago dress situation and conveying a request to President Schlesinger to authorize the start of the organizing campaign without delay.

On Friday evening, June 12, Bro. Ninfo paid a visit to the Chicago Joint Board meeting, thus concluding a week of hectic and interesting activity in our city. And now, though our visitor is gone already, the effects of the stir and the enthusiasm which he created among us by his visit, is still very much felt, and we hope to carry on the big work ahead of us on the waves of this enthusiasm to a successful finish!

## I. L. G. W. U. News in Brief

The committee appointed by the General Executive Board of the International at its last meeting at Atlantic City to bring about harmonious relations between Local 1, the cloak operators, and Local 17, the reefer makers, is going ahead with its work. This committee consists of Vice Presidents Max Amour and Charles Kreindler, with President Schlesinger as chairman.

Right now, the auditor of the International is examining the books of Local 17 with a view to ascertaining the facts concerning the claim of Local 1 that Local 17 took in cloak operators as members. By next week, the auditor will begin a similar examination of the books of Local 1 to find out the facts about the charges of Local 17 that the cloak operators' local was taking in reefer makers as members.

A very interesting case was won by the International two weeks ago in the New York Supreme Court, when Justice Valente granted an injunction to the Union restraining the dress manufacturing firm of Leo Finkenberg, Inc., from violating an agreement with the Wholesale Dress Manufacturers' Association, of which this firm was a member until recently, by sending out work to non-union shops.

The Finkenberg firm claimed that it resigned from the association a few months ago and is no longer bound by the latter's agreement with the Union. Besides, the firm alleged that it was dissolved as a corporation and that there was no one, therefore, to sue or to re-

strain. Judge Valente, however, brushed these arguments aside saying that the firm's resignation from the jobbers' association does not absolve it from the obligations of the contract, and, furthermore, that despite the fact that it dissolved itself as a corporation it is still responsible under the agreement as long as it continues to do business as a jobber or manufacturer.

The lawyer for the International Union in this case was Emil Schlesinger, son of President Schlesinger.

The resignation of Dr. N. J. Stone as impartial chairman of the dress industry in New York has created an important vacancy which all the factors in the industry under collective agreements with the International are now endeavoring to fill.

Several conferences between the employers' associations and the Union have already been held on this matter. In case the parties are unable to agree on a selection, the Governor of the State should be called upon, according to the agreement, to designate an impartial chairman.

### UNION HEALTH CENTER NEWS

By PAULINE M. NEWMAN

Bro. Max Bluestein, secretary of Local 22, was elected to succeed Joseph Spielman on the board of directors of the Union Health Center at one of its recent meetings. The same meeting adopted a resolution praising Bro. Spielman for his services as chairman of the Center for several years, and inviting him to attend the meetings of the Board whenever it might be possible for him to do so "in order that the Union Health Center might benefit by his long experience and wise judgment."

A Union Center Alliance, composed of men and women, was recently organized to further the interest of the Union Health Center. This group has already shown its devotion to this institution by running a theatre party for the benefit of the Center. This first undertaking met with a very satisfactory response from the many friends who appreciate the valuable services rendered to the labor movement by the Union Health Center. All those interested in promoting the growth of the Union Health Center are invited to join. Dues are only one dollar a year.

## Readers of Justice

In case you move from your present quarters, please notify your local office of your new address. We shall then forthwith put your new address on our mailing list.



# Tidings from Cleveland

It is quite some time since we have had any news from Cleveland in "Justice" and we hardly know where to begin. We shall, therefore, start with the last Spring season. Before we do so, we must say that the preceding Fall season was a very bad one. We were not able to place all the workers to work, and the Operators' Locals, 26 and 27, taxed their members who worked 25 cents per day for those who were unemployed. We all hoped that the Spring season would be much better, but the Spring season started very slow. In the month of January, when our season should have been in full force, we had quite a few workers unemployed, but at the beginning of February work started to come in and the office of the Union succeeded in placing all the workers that were idle at work and the season lasted until the middle of April.

By stating the fact that all the people worked, we, nevertheless, don't mean to say that the workers had made fortunes, but we are satisfied that the workers had, at least, a chance to work ten or twelve weeks, and were able to pay off debts accumulated from the preceding idle season and had a little left for the next dull season. This was the case in the cloak industry. In the dress industry the situation was not so good. The season started very early and, at first, it looked as if there would be a lot of work, but in the middle of January the season fell down and there was very little work until about the middle of March, when it picked up again until about May 1. All in all, the season was a very poor one. Manufacturers and contractors especially are trying to take advantage of the bad times. The office of the Union, on the other hand, is using every possible means to keep up conditions in this trying period. At this time, we again hope for the Fall season to start very soon, both in the cloak and dress industries, and we again hope to be able to place all the workers to work and to help them make a decent living.

## Settlement of Prices

One of the troubles we have in this market is how to settle prices on the basis that the workers would be able to make a fair day's wages and the prices should be settled in a uniform way, especially in the contracting shops. There are a number of contractors that take out work from the same inside manufacturer, but they each settle prices separately with their workers in their shops, and in many cases this brings about competition between one set of workers and another.

By CHARLES KREINDLER, Secretary

The Executive Board of Locals 26 and 27 discussed this question for quite some time, and finally decided that prices should be settled with the contractors by a committee selected by the workers from each shop, together with the shop chairmen of every other contracting shop that works for the same employer. On this basis we expect to cut out the competition between shop and shop which always is done at the expense of the workers.

## The Trouble with the S. C. Klein Co.

This firm was in business in Cleveland for many years. Last Spring season they liquidated, but now, at the beginning of the Fall season, they are starting business again, but instead of employing their old workers they have decided to go into jobbing. The Union has notified this firm that unless a satisfactory employment adjustment is made with the workers, a strike would be declared in this shop, and all preparations are being made by the Union now to give this firm a fight unless they change their plans and adjust the dispute.

## Organization Drive in the Dress Industry

Due to the fact that the seasons in the dress industry are not as good as they ought to be and also due to the present depression, a number of dress manufacturers have decided to take advantage of the workers and have found some unscrupulous contractors who opened shops and are paying starvation wages to their workers. The workers in these shops are working long hours and getting very little pay. The Joint Board, therefore, instructed the office to make all necessary preparations to start an organization drive on the eve of the Fall season in these shops to force these manufacturers to pay the workers a decent wage so they might be able to make a living and work regular hours. We expect this drive to be in full force after the Fourth of July.

It is worth while mentioning here that at the last meeting of the General Executive Board in Atlantic City the general officers of our International were instructed to give our Union all necessary assistance in this matter.

## Group Insurance

We are sure that the readers of the "Justice" know that we have an insurance fund for the last ten years, known as the Family Protective Fund. To this fund every worker has paid until now \$2.00 per year for which he is insured for \$4.00.00. At a meeting of our Cutters' Local, No. 42, the question was raised whether it would not be more advisable to take out group insurance for all our members from a reliable insurance company. This matter was reported to the Joint Board, which appointed a committee with instructions to make all necessary investigations and to recommend a plan to the membership. After a careful study, the committee recommended that the group insurance plan should be adopted and that every member should be insured for \$1,000. This matter was discussed by our members at their different local meetings with the following results:

The operators, Locals 26 and 27, Pressers Local, 37, Cutters Local, 42 and the Italian Workers' Local 44, have adopted this recommendation. Our Women Garment Makers, Local 29, has rejected this proposition. Due to this, the Joint Board has decided to keep our old insurance system for the present, and to take this matters up again after July 1 with the view of bringing about the group insurance plan which we believe is the best for us under the circumstances.

We wish to call to the attention of the members that the \$10.00 tax for the International, which was levied at the Cleveland Convention in December, 1929, and was to be collected in 1930 and 1931, was not collected due to our strike in 1930. Now the Joint Board decided that, before these current books are changed, this assessment must be collected. There is no doubt in our mind that the members will take this into consideration and will pay up the assessments, as well as back dues, as soon as they start to work.

Local Meetings

## Local Meetings

Due to the fact that we have moved our headquarters from 207 Superior Bldg., to 1766 E. 12th Street, we herewith again announce the dates of the local meetings. We hope that every member will cut this out and use it as a calendar.

Locals 26 and 27 meet every first and third Saturday of the month, at 1 P. M. sharp.

Local 29 meets every first and third Thursday of the month at 5:30 P. M.

Local 37 meets every second and fourth Saturday of the month, at 1 P. M. sharp.

Local 42 meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 8 P. M. -sharp.

Local 44 meets every 2nd Friday of the month at 5:30 P. M. sharp.

Our Joint Board meets every Thursday, at 8 P. M. sharp.

(Continued on Page 9)

## Run O' The Month

By M. D. DANISH

THE REPORTED barring of several American liberal clergymen from entering Soviet Russia, on the face of it appears to be an act of black ingratitude.

And while the ban has been lifted in the case of the Rev. John Haynes Holmes of New York, than whom there is no more ardent apologist of the Soviet regime, the refusal of visas seems to stand in the case of the other reverend gentlemen, among them Dr. David Rhys Williams of Rochester, N. Y., who declared with keen disappointment that he had made, since 1929, ninety-six speeches pleading for "an understanding and recognition of Soviet Russia."

The incident, however, is not perhaps without a touch of poetic justice. While professing to feel "amusement but not resentment" over this rather crude treatment, these worshippers of the Soviet regime in the end might really benefit from this galling dose of Communist medicine. It may be one thing to admire an "experiment" practiced upon others from a distance of several thousand miles, but, we suppose, it tastes altogether different when a touch of this experiment is brought down like a lash upon one's own back.

For it does seem quite clear that all the touching fondness of these gentlemen of the cloth for the Communist rule in Russia notwithstanding, the Soviet authorities look upon them with no less contempt than upon their own, domestic brand of "peddlers in oplate for the people."

CANADA, our neighbor to the North, replies to our tariff wall by erecting a sky-high customs barrier of her own.

The United States exports annually nearly \$700,000,000 worth of goods to Canada. The new Canadian tariff raises affect some two hundred products, including automobiles and soft and hard coal. American industry naturally will suffer considerably as a result of these increases, but Washington cannot even protest against these rate raises. Having ignored the protest of more than thirty countries when it passed its own prohibitive tariff a year ago, the Hoover administration would look worse than silly if it now protested against the Canadian tariff.

Most of the bigger industrialists hit by the Canadian reprisal, it is expected, will solve the new difficulty by opening branch factories in Canada. The Campbell Canneries, it is reported, has already begun the building of a big plant to employ 1,000 people in Ontario to supply its Canadian market. But what of

the workers who are certain to lose their jobs on account of it? They are sure to remain here.

We are just wondering how much of a lesson this Canadian counter-offensive will be to our tariff-patriots, even among the leaders of labor in America.

MATTHEW WOLL'S "Ten-Year Plan" for American industry is being hailed in some influential sections of the press as the "first definite move for stabilizing production, eliminating unemployment and integrating the industrial and economic structure of the nation."

Woll has reached the conclusion that the present haphazard order of production and distribution is bringing misfortune upon the American people. The time has arrived, he says, for the conscious, organized development of cooperation in all industry, "for the creation of a democratic industrial structure comparable to our democratic political structure."

The "10-Year Plan" is addressed to leading industrialists and to the heads of all trade unions. Briefly, the idea is to form a colossal, volunteer super-trust, one that would "escape State political control," substituting for it industrial "self-control." This super-trust would determine the annual human requirements of the American people for the next ten years; would appraise the immediate visible supply of required goods; would apportion among the industrial divisions their respective tasks of production and handling; would determine the available labor hours on the initial basis of the six-hour day and the five-day week; would take stock of the present industrial equipment and would apportion the task of its design and installation; would provide for the immediate and continuing distribution of the necessities of life among the entire population, and several other no less important collective tasks requisite for the carrying out of a balanced national industrial program.

Whether it will be called by that name or not, the Woll plan is nevertheless a plan in the direction of Socialism. Of course, the Woll plan essentially is but an idea of volunteer democratic industrial regulation. It leaves control of industry, and what goes with it—profits and compensation, as of old in the hands of the present owners and investors, those who have contrived to create such a bloody mess out of their control.

Frankly, it appears doubtful, as long as control remains in private hands, that owners of American industry would permit even a "democratic industrial congress" to expose to the public glare their "private business," least of to determine profits and earnings on their investments. Yet, it is a highly interesting suggestion, this Woll plan is, and a revealing sign of the times. A few years ago, such a plan, of course, would have been howled down in every "respective" American precinct as rank Socialism. The first step in industrial democracy should lead to a second. Eventually public order in industry is bound to lead to public control of industry.

AN IDEA HAS COME out of England, sponsored by one of the best known British labor leaders, Ernest Bevin, secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, proposing a system of "organized rest periods" as a cure for unemployment. Bevin argues there must be organized lay-offs in industry to create an equilibrium between highly accelerated mass-production and distribution.

Well, "organized rest periods" to cloak-makers or dressmakers right here in the United States are part and parcel of their existence. In fact, these "rest periods," or as they are best known in our trades as "slack," are so marvelously organized that they never fail to arrive on time, or frequently a good bit too soon. The damning part about these "rest periods" in our trades is that our workers are not getting paid for their "rest."

Bevin, of course, proposes that the workers should get compensated during these layoffs from a "national maintenance pool," somewhat after the fashion of public school teachers being paid for their vacations. In somewhat different language it would amount, in the case of seasonal workers, to an unemployment insurance fund, as a legitimate charge on industry, the same thing practically which our workers have been contending for for a number of years.

IT IS NOT OFTEN that one comes across such figures that so fiercely and palpably bring into relief the disparity between group and group, class and class in America.

Five hundred super-millionaires have greater income than five hundred thousand of the best paid workers in the United States! According to the Interstate Commerce Commission, surely not a labor agency, the average number of men employed in the transportation service of the country in 1929 was 521.



025. These men, long called the "aristocrats of the labor world," receiving high wages and fine working conditions, received in that year a total pay of \$1,120,710,037. According to the U. S. Treasury Department in that same year, 504 men had net incomes of one million dollars or more. The net profits of these men totalled \$1,185,135,330.

Which means that these 500 could have paid the total wages of the 500,000 railway workers and still have the mere trifle of \$65,000,000 left for cigarette money. Just the same, only a couple of weeks ago, the railway magnates have filed an application to the Federal Railway Board for a 15 per cent increase in all transportation rates claiming poverty. Some of the railway executives, too, are strong for a general wage slashing in order to revive "prosperity" and, incidentally, in order to swell returns on their saturated stocks.

A CITY WITHOUT GANGS—such is Milwaukee, the only large city in America governed by Socialists and trade unionists.

It sounds almost unbelievable—in these days of crime waves, prohibition, beer rackets and hijacking, when most people have all but reached the conclusion that gangsterism is an unavoidable evil of modern big city life. But it is a fact, nevertheless. Milwaukee, with a population of 700,000 last year had only 12 murders, while New York had 421, which on the basis of population means that New York had nearly 40 times as many murders as Milwaukee. On the basis of the same figures, one is "125 times safer" in Milwaukee than in Chicago, and the latter city is only a couple of hours ride from Milwaukee.

The key to Milwaukee's gangsterlessness is comparatively a simple one. Milwaukee's administration is not in league with the underworld. Justice works fast in the Wisconsin city, and political "pull" is not a weighty factor in Milwaukee's courts. Certainly, Milwaukee has plenty of speakeasies and views them with a tolerant eye as long as they behave themselves. But when some time ago Capone's agents came out to Milwaukee for the purpose of organizing there a net of gambling joints, they were unceremoniously told to go before they might be given a swift taste of the local brand of justice.

Of course, Milwaukee has, as we remarked, a strong Socialist element in the city administration and has had a Socialist mayor for the past 15 years. There may be a very pertinent connection between this fact and the city's freedom from gangs. It should be an experiment that many another American city might try with benefit.

THAT PENNSYLVANIA, the State so safely tucked away in the vest pockets of the Atterburys and Mellons, would be the first in America to pass a law limiting the use of injunctions in labor disputes and providing for jury trials in contempt of court cases is, to say the least, a pleasant surprise.

But here it is. The Pennsylvania Senate passed the bill in the last hours of the session despite strenuous eleventh-hour efforts on the part of the Pennsylvania Railroad lobbyists, after the Assembly had previously endorsed it by an overwhelming vote. Enactment of this law promises a new deal for labor in the courts. Injunctions may not hereafter be issued without hearing both sides in open court, and for specific cause. Only specific acts by designated persons can be prohibited. This law will end the evil of injunctions so often issued in the past in labor disputes with-

out proof of charges, and in blanket language. Besides, the law assures jury trials for all violations, with trial before a different judge on demand.

On second thought, however, the advanced step taken by Pennsylvania appears less amazing. The Keystone State may be hard-boiled but it also has the most militant State Federation of Labor in the country, it has its labor-governed Reading, with a couple of Socialist members in the legislature, and it has Gifford Pinchot as governor. Let's hope that the big industrial states, East and West, will now follow Pennsylvania's footsteps and pass similar anti-injunction laws. New York, Illinois, Massachusetts were not slow indeed promptly to imitate at one time Pennsylvania's State Cossacks; they might, at least, now atone for it by enacting an anti-injunction law that would help blotting out an evil that is strangulating labor at every step and turn.

## PIONEER YOUTH CAMP ITEMS

Hot weather and the season of out-of-doors are upon us. Camp PIONEER YOUTH offers our children two, four, six, eight or ten weeks of creative activity, without regimentation and with no hectic straining for awards and prizes, on a picturesque forested mountainside in the foothills of the Catskills.

Conducted on a non-profit basis, it nevertheless offers modern facilities: modern plumbing, a large social hall, an open-air dining hall, workshops, an infirmary, water from an artesian well, athletic fields, tennis and handball courts. The staff in charge is composed of mature and well-trained people.

Information will be furnished at the office of Pioneer Youth, 45 Astor Place, New York City. Phone—Stuyvesant 9-7865.

## EX-PATIENTS HOME THANKS I. L. G. W. U.

The Ex-Patients' Tubercular Home, through its New York branch office manager, Mr. R. Schwartz, in a letter addressed to "Justice" expresses "sincere thanks and appreciation" to the General Executive Board of the International for a donation of \$100 towards the maintenance of the Home and for the support our Union has given this institution in past years.

Secretary Dubinsky's comment that "were it not for the prevailing depression, our contribution would have been larger," is pointed out with special emphasis in the letter from the Ex-Patients' Home.

## SHOP CHAIRMAN GIVEN THANKS

"We, the workers of the Samuel Dunken Dress Co., 323 W. 38th St., assembled at a regular shop meeting, desire to express our appreciation of the splendid and efficient services rendered by our shop chairman, Brother Morris Axelrod. We present him with a gold wrist watch in kind remembrance of his loyalty and unselfishness in behalf of his fellow workers. We likewise acknowledge our gratitude to the former business agent of our shop, Brother Abe Deutch, and Brother Alex Cantor, his successor."

CHAS. SPRUNG,  
SAM ACKERMAN,  
MAX LEVINE,

Committee.

## TIDINGS FROM CLEVELAND

(Continued from page 7)

The Finance Committee and the Membership Committee meet every Thursday at 5:30 P. M. sharp.

All these meetings are held at our headquarters at 1766 E. 12th Street.

Last Thursday, June 11, the chairman of our Joint Board, Louis Friend, married off his daughter, Miriam to Samuel Yellen, who is Professor of English Literature in the Indiana University. This occasion was very nicely celebrated, and the Joint Board officially participated through a committee and its officers. We are sure that our entire membership joins the committee selected by the Joint Board and its officers in wishing Brother and Mrs. Friend and their children luck and happiness.

## In the Philadelphia Cloak Organization

### Union Rejects Piece-Work Overtures

By SIMON DAVIDSON,  
Secretary Joint Board

Our cloak manufacturers recently again made an attempt to negotiate introduction of piece-work through our business agents. The fact is, there are a certain number of workers here who are honestly convinced that piece-work is the best remedy for bringing a lot of work into the local shops. The result was a long and all-absorbing discussion of this subject at the last Joint Board meeting. The Finishers, Local 69, stood out unanimously against piece-work and voted so at their meeting.

The Cutters, Local 53, did not participate in the discussion as they have no direct interest in this matter: cutters would work by the week at all events. The division of opinion was the sharpest among the operators and the pressers. And the vote at the Joint Board stood 16 for piece-work and 15 for week-work.

This meeting was followed by a general member meeting, the best attended gathering of cloakmakers in this city in years, which lasted until a late hour. Three Joint Executive members, B. Cook, H. Dardick, and H. Kaplan, spoke for week-work, while three others, B. Israel, S. Levy, and S. Rudin, spoke for piece-work. Business Agents Damsky and Rublin, old-time adherents of piece-work, also spoke. After the protracted debate, the membership voted by 176 to 76 for the retention of week-work, which fixed definitely the stand of the Philadelphia cloak organization on this subject.

### Finishers Fight Piece-Work

To the finishers, members of Local 69, most of the credit for this result is due. They were responsible for the big attendance at the membership meeting, the ground for which had been prepared by their own local meeting a few days prior, which was addressed by Vice-President Max Amdur. In speaking to the finishers on this subject, Bro. Amdur, among other things, said:

"As a Philadelphian, I recall how we used to plan together and to consider ways and means for the abolition of the enslaving piece-work system of former years, the system that was condemned by every intelligent worker as a breeder of misery and disease. The introduction of week-work has done away with the evils that were associated with the old piece work system. It is not true that cloakmakers here earned more money under piece-work, as it is a fact that week-work wages have been higher than piece earnings. It has given us all a

more normal, a more human way of living.

"It is equally untrue that manufacturers are quitting the business on account of week-work. What is true is that the cloak trade is going down in all markets, while the dress industry is rising under the strain of the style transition period in women's apparel. Yet, despite the fact that the cloak industry is declining and the dress industry is on the rise, the organization of the cloakmakers in New York, our biggest center, is in an immeasurably better shape than the dress organization, and do you know

why? The cloakmakers still have a week-work system which enables them, even in bad times, to earn their minimum scales—from \$50 to \$60 a week—while the dress workers work by the piece and are being exploited right and left.

"If you had to live through this very hard period in industry under piece-work, you'd have a different story to tell than what you are listening to now," concluded Bro. Amdur. "Give this matter very serious thought and bear in mind also that this subject will soon be pressed for a solution in New York, too, where a sharp conflict might develop with regard to it. Do not assume the blame for having acted hastily while there is time and reason to weigh this matter in the accurate light of past experience."

## Among the Philadelphia Dressmakers

By ELIAS REISBERG, Mgr. Local 50

Those who work in union shops often wonder what the feelings are of those who are employed in the "open" shops when employers announce a reduction in prices without even taking the time to warn the workers about it. It is difficult indeed to believe that a worker can pass without some sort of protest a twenty per cent reduction in the already deflated pay envelope, no matter how helpless one may find himself in a non-union shop.

There is, however, sound reasoning behind the timidity, this lack of revolt. The answer is—the existing conditions. The Union had announced on various occasions that a general organization campaign would soon be inaugurated. Many of the workers in the "open" shops who visit the Union office seeking advice of one form or another, are showing that they understand the Union's policy of watchful waiting and are expressing the hope that the International will eventually come prepared at last to organize the Philadelphia dress industry at the opportune moment.

There is quite a number of our members working in "open" shops who are not deriving any benefit from belonging to the Union at the present moment but who are continuing to pay their dues to the local. Aside from the unquestionable idealism with which they are imbued, these workers are also conscious of the fact that their present condition is a temporary one, and that the Union is preparing to extend its protective arm to all those who are employed in the dress industry so that all of them may

attain a measure of happiness and an opportunity to live a more comfortable and fuller life.

The decision of the G. E. B. at Atlantic City with reference to an organizing drive here has stirred our workers. The local labor papers are giving this decision a lot of prominence and the entire atmosphere is encouraging.

### Assessments Being Paid

Notwithstanding the very bad season in the dress trade, our members have pledged themselves to pay up not only the International assessment but also an additional \$4 tax to help tide over the local during the slack period. All told the members will pay \$9 in the course of three weeks. The first of the three payments proved to be very gratifying. It proves once more the loyalty of the Philadelphia members to their parent body and to their local Union.

### Recent Elections

Recently, the term of the Executive Board and of the officers of Local 50 expired and elections for new officers were held. While many of the old executives were selected, a sufficient number of new persons came into the Board to create new interest in the administration of the Union. Bro. Aron Einbinder, our chairman, was reelected, as well as Bro. Abraham Bloomfield, secretary of the Local for many years past. The writer of these lines was again appointed by an unanimous vote, as manager of Local 50, and the machinery is now set to round



up all the forces preliminary to general organizing activity.

President Schlesinger, who has now returned to resume his duties, is expected to meet with our Executive Board next week to consider plans for the carrying out of the G. E. B. Atlantic City decision with regard to Local 50.

### Secretary Bloomfield Honored

The outgoing Executive Board arranged an outing and dinner in honor of our secretary, Abraham Bloomfield, in appreciation of his long and valuable services rendered freely and generously. Seventy-five active members of the Local gathered in Collegeville, on the outskirts of our city, to pay homage to Bloomfield. Two gifts were presented to him, one from the workers of the Sommerson shop, where he is the shop chairman, and one from the Board. The outing was also in the nature of a get-together for those who carry in their hearts the interests of the Union and who are always working tirelessly for the promotion of the interests of all dressmakers. All in all, the outing was a remarkable success.

It will not be out of place to record here one more item. The workers of the Phil Mar shop gathered at the Union office last Friday and presented a chest of silver to their shop chairman, Bro. I. Breecher. Bro. Breecher has fully earned this recognition as he serves the workers of his shop most faithfully.

## Pres. Schlesinger Going to Phila. and Toronto

President Schlesinger has visited several cities within the past two weeks on organizational business.

On Tuesday, June 24, the leader of the I. L. G. W. U. is going to visit the cloakmakers and dressmakers' unions of Philadelphia. In Philadelphia, the employers are carrying on a propaganda for piece work, but the cloakmakers are firmly opposed to this. At a meeting held this week which was attended by a large number of workers, after a long discussion on this subject, the vote was two to one against piece work. Vice President Amdur will accompany President Schlesinger on his visit to Philadelphia.

While in Philadelphia, President Schlesinger will also take up the dressmakers' situation and will meet with the Executive Board of Local 50.

A week later, President Schlesinger will visit Toronto at the urgent invitation of the Toronto Joint Board, to help in the adjusting of a number of important organizational matters and likewise

## \$871 Donated to Polish Needle Union

The following complete list of contributions to the cause of our sister organization in Poland, made by officers of the International and of its local unions, was released by General Secretary Dubinsky:

The International, \$200.

### From General Office:

Benj. Schlesinger, \$25; David Dubinsky, \$15; Salvatore Ninfo, \$5; Office Staff, \$15; Harry Wander, \$5; Max D. Danish, \$5; Dr. B. Hoffman, \$5; R. Rende, \$5; J. Halpern, \$5; Abraham Rosenberg, \$5; Jack Grossman, \$5; M. Durante, \$5.

### Cloakmakers' Joint Board:

Board of Officials, \$25; Isidore Nagler, \$10; M. J. Ashbes, \$5; Chas. Jacobson, \$3.

### Dressmakers' Joint Board:

Julius Hochman, \$5; A. Crivello, \$5.

### Local Officers:

Local No. 1: Louis Levy, \$5; Benj. Moser, \$2; I. Atkin, \$3; Benj. Kaplan, \$2; Harry Aldeland, \$2; M. Feinberg, \$2; L. Goldstein, \$2; A. Davidoff, \$3; I. Brauner, \$5; Ph. Kaufman, \$2; J. Gollob, \$2; R. Zuckerman, \$3; H. Fried, \$2; B. Gollob, \$2.

Local No. 9: N. Kirtzman, \$5; Carl Bercovici, \$5; J. M. Rosenblatt, \$3; A.

Schwartz, \$2; J. Cohen, \$2; A. Etkin, \$2; S. Feierstein, \$2; A. Miller, \$2; J. Wallack, \$2; H. Saltzberg, \$2.

Local No. 10: S. Perlmutter, \$10; L. Binger, \$3; M. Falikman, \$5; Max Stoller, \$5; S. Leader, \$5; M. W. Jacobs, \$3; M. Gordon, \$3; L. Stulberg, \$3.

Local No. 17: J. Heller, \$5; Jack Snyder, \$3; J. Stankevitch, \$3; Meyer Orshowitz, \$3; Abraham Beison, \$3.

Local No. 22: N. M. Minkoff, \$3; Abraham Staum, \$2; Harry Miller, \$2; Joe Rabinow, \$1; Workers of Ben Gerahel, \$5.

Local No. 23: Samuel Fremed, \$5.

Local No. 35: Max Cohen, \$5; Chas. Aronsky, \$2; M. Carolinsky, \$3; Chas. Cherkes, \$3; Morris Kovler, \$3; I. Wasilevsky, \$5; M. Goldowsky, \$2; M. Goldstein, \$3; H. Slutsky, \$3; L. Rieff, \$3; Max Guzman, \$3.

Local No. 48: Ed. Molisani, \$5; Alfo Riffel, \$5; A. Cottone, \$3; J. Piccione, \$1; Chas. Carotenuto, \$3; M. Mariconda, \$2; A. Ingulli, \$2; Frank Pidala, \$5; B. Desti, \$5; F. Merrone, \$1; E. Piccione, \$2; P. Chiarchiara, \$2; P. Muccigrosso, \$2.

Local No. 62: Samuel Shore, \$3; Mary Goff, \$1; Abraham Snyder, \$2.

Local No. 89: L. Antonini, \$5; F. Olivo, \$2; J. Egitto, \$2; Margaret DiMaggio, \$2; F. Liberti, \$2; F. Salerno, \$2; C. Landoli, \$2.

Local No. 91: Harry Greenberg, \$5.

Russian-Polish Branch Cloakmakers' Joint Board, I. Zanko, \$2.

Baltimore: Saul Metz, \$3.

Boston: Office Staff Joint Board, \$15.

Chicago: M. Bialls, \$2.50; M. Novick, \$2.50; M. A. Goldstein, \$2.50; P. Rabinowitz, \$2.50.

Los Angeles: J. Breslau, \$10; Louis Pine, \$6.

Montreal: Israel Feinberg, \$5; Albert Eaton, \$5.

Philadelphia: Elias Reisberg, \$5.

San Francisco: Abraham Plotkin, \$10.

Toronto: A. Kirzner, \$5; S. Kraisman, \$3; A. London, \$3; Bernard Shane, \$5; H. D. Langer, \$3.

Cleveland: Chas. Kreindler, \$5; A. Katovsky, \$5.

### From Locals and Joint Boards:

N. Y. Cloak Joint Board, \$50; Dress & Waistmakers' Joint Board, \$10; Local 1, \$25; Local No. 3, \$5; Local 8, San Francisco, \$10; Local No. 9, \$15; Local No. 10, \$10; Local 21, Newark, \$10; Local No. 22, \$5; Local No. 62, \$5; Local 75, Worcester, Mass., \$5; Local No. 82, \$3; Cleveland Joint Board, \$15; St. Louis Joint Board, \$12.

to look over personally the results of the recently won dressmakers' strike in that city and to address the Executive Board of Local 72, the dressmakers' organization.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

### DR. FAGIN'S LECTURES GIVEN AT UNITY HOUSE

1. The Puritan Tradition—the old puritanism as it is reflected in the modern movement known as the New Humanism.

2. Anti Puritanism—the rebellion against puritanism from Emerson to Dreiser and Mencken.

3. The Search for Beauty—a discussion of our purely esthetic writers from Poe to Cabell and Thornton Wilder.

4. Low Tide in American Literature—a consideration of the present state of American letters.

5. American Drama—the drama in its present critical period.

# GROWING UP

MARYLYN was fast becoming convinced that she is a grown-up girl.

Perhaps not a grown-up big girl but just a grown-up little girl. Of course, mamma had told her this time and again in the last few months, but mother has been cranky and out of sorts lately. Now daddy — good, patient, always-forgiving daddy — confirmed it. It happened like this:

On the way home from the corner newsstand, just before supper, they were passing that marvelous toy store on the avenue. As usual, Marylyn stopped in front of the brightly-lit window, her big blue eyes fairly glued to the huge electric train that dominated the display. Then, in an ecstatic moment, she turned to her father:

"Gosh, daddy dear, I wish you could buy it for me."

She noticed a funny twitch on her daddy's lips. He swerved away from the window and pulled her along with a sudden yank. She heard him say:

"Lynnie dear, you should have better sense than this . . . you are a grown up girl."

That settled it in Marylyn's seven-year old mind. Daddy's unaccustomed severity, besides, so startled her that she resisted from further talking until they got to the house. It is all, of course, that "job" that is making him so different, she decided. Take, for instance, the "funnies." They used to be a regular source of delight for both of them for ever so long a time—in fact, ever since Marylyn had discovered the "jokes"—those brightly colored pages on Sundays and the reams of side-splitting strips on weekdays. But it has been since Christmas now, since he had lost that "job" in the old office down-town that daddy stopped caring about the "funnies." Not that he didn't buy any more papers—he sure was buying more of them now than ever before—but instead of musing over the escapades of "Bumpy Joe," "Jane in Our Lane," or "Benzine Bennie," daddy would now be poring for hours, pencil in hand, over those detestable, dreary columns which didn't even have a picture to brighten them up. In those pages, full of hateful, puny lines that competed so strongly with her for daddy's attention, she was told, he was hunting for a "job."

Daddy now stayed home a good part of the day, mostly afternoons. That was great fun at the beginning, yes, for just a few weeks. They would go together to the menageries, to the museums, to the big fish house down at the Battery, and occasionally to a movie, alone without mother who these days seemed to be busi-

By FRED ANGER

er than ever with their three rooms and kitchen. Ma anyway was not much on going out—she caught colds so quickly—and preferred to stay indoors especially when the days were cloudy and the sun hid behind mirky skies.

Then daddy got a kind of worried and sour, and Marylyn who knew his face so well noticed many new wrinkles on his forehead as he would stare at her frequently through clouded, distant eyes. Again Marylyn concluded that it must be that abominable "job," the elusive thing he had lost in the old office to which he was going no more. Mother, too, became even more silent, thinner than ever, and sadder.

That same evening, after supper, Marylyn got through quickly with "home work," and, after having made sure that mother was busy in the kitchen with the dishes, sneaked up behind the big chair where daddy sat engrossed in his paper. Sure enough those were the same old columns, the same tiny letters which spoke of "wants," "helps," and "situations" that he was peering at.

"Daddy dear," she whispered, "are you still looking for 'it'?"

"Looking for what, Marylyn?" Without turning around he let his free hand wander slowly through her blond little head.

"Can I help you find it, daddy, you know I can read so fast now?" she continued in a half-whisper.

He lifted her up with one arm and sat her down on his knees. Marylyn snuggled up to him almost burying her head between his shoulders.

"Tomorrow, daddy, in the morning, we will both go to look for a job, you and I, yes?"

He laughed in an odd sort of a way. Marylyn thought it sounded like a groan. He said:

"Sure, Lynnie dear, tomorrow we'll both go and find it. Just the same it is time to go to bed even for a grown-up girlie like you, isn't it?"

Marylyn said nothing. It was comfortable in daddy's arms, so warm, and besides he had dropped the hateful paper now and it felt again like old times when he used to be completely hers, her daddy. She did not notice the blank, faraway look with which he was staring towards the kitchen from where jerky sounds of clashing dishes and utensils continued to come over.



"Funny, daddy," Marylyn finally remarked in a drowsy voice, "mamma never loses her job,—mamma is always busy."

Next morning, Marylyn rolled out of her little bed about a half hour ahead of her regular rising time. She dressed quickly, got through with breakfast in record time, and after a hurried kiss to her mother, ran down the three flights of stairs, ostensibly on the way to school.

But when she reached the sidewalk Marylyn stopped and hid behind the stoop of the brownstone house where they lived. Her father, she knew, would soon come down—on his morning trip downtown, that soul-wearing trotting from place to place, from office to office in search of that accursed thing called job. The little girl's heart fairly stopped beating when, after a lapse of some five minutes, she saw him descend the steps. He appeared so peculiarly stooping, so grey-faced in the sunless, chilly morning air. Marylyn sauntered up to him.

"Here I am, daddy, I'm going along . . . to help you look. . ."

Marylyn's father stood still, with a startled look.

"What are you doing here, Lynnie, why aren't you at school?"

Marylyn's big blue eyes were stern and her lips tightly drawn. She spoke back.

"You promised last night, daddy, don't you remember? You promised that I am to go with you, to help find it—the job. I'm awfully lucky, daddy dear, I always manage to find something—the other day I found the dime Jennie lost . . . and you promised, please. . ."

He wanted to say something, but instead swallowed a lump that came up of a sudden in his throat, and kept on staring at the little girl.

"Aren't you silly, Lynnie, what has got into your little head? Run along, dearie, to school, before mother finds out,—you'll be late. . ."

Marylyn's eyes were flashing sparks at



# Picket Lines

By SADIE REISCH

It was a Monday morning at 7 o'clock during the early part of the Custom Ladies' Tailors' strike in New York City.

I came out as usual on the picket line and found 57th Street, between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, looking as if a revolution had taken place. On the side of the street where Milgrim Brothers, Behdel and many other fashionable establishments are located, some 60 policemen were lined up, about 50 feet apart, including mounted police. The emergency patrol wagon and an ambulance were waiting as if they were expecting people to be murdered. I felt indignant. This was unwarranted. I walked up to the strikers who were scattered all through the block and asked them why they did not picket these shops on strike. "The police won't let us," was the reply. "Who are they to give you orders?" I asked, and called out, "Come on, who's going with me?"

The first one to step forward was an old man. The rest followed, about a hundred of them, middle-aged women and young girls. The man who volunteered first, walked directly behind me. We were stopped by the mounted police. I started to argue that we had the right to picket. In the meantime, we were fighting our way through and finally got out on the sidewalk in front of the striking shops. The old man in back of me in his excitement called to me, "You're all right, kid," and started singing "Solidarity Forever." The rest of

him and she stamped her foot.

"You promised, dad, and I'm not a little girl, you told it to me and so did mamma. . . . You've got to keep your word. You ain't so lucky anyway, maybe I'll be luckier, maybe we can find it together, please, daddy. . . ."

She stopped of a sudden as she noticed her father's face going ashen pale and tears, real tears, coursing down his cheeks. In a moment she, too, was crying quietly as they both retreated behind the stoop, Marylyn tugging at his coat and shaking with sobs. The next minute, however, he managed to get hold of himself. In a voice which he tried to make as severe as possible, he told her:

"Don't let us be foolish, Marylyn—run along to school. . . . You just let me borrow your luck for today, how about it? . . . Maybe I'll strike it, anything, any work. You are still a little one, Lynnie, the Lord may be kinder to you. . . . you will be luckier when you grow up."

In a few big strides Marylyn's father disappeared around the corner. And the little girl wearily walked off toward the school wondering if the Lord really was kinder to young children whose daddies are without jobs.

the picket line joined in the singing. I felt the man's hand on my shoulder. "Listen, kid," he said, "I am 30 years in this country. I always worked hard. There were times when I worked 60 hours a week, and after all these years of hard work I have just enough to keep myself and family about two weeks from starvation." "If you worked as hard as you say you did, how is it," I asked, "that you did not succeed in saving a little more?"

"You see," he said, "seasons are quite short and I had a lot of hard luck. Sickness in the family and my little Rosie—she is the nicest wife a man can have. She has never complained much when she ran short. She would borrow and borrow all she could and when I worked she'd pay back and that was all she was able to do or save from my last season's earnings." The talk was interrupted. There was a sudden commotion. Arrests were being made. I protested, as did the old man. Both of us were arrested with about 15 others, young girls and a few men.

While we were sitting in the patrol wagon, I, for the first time, really began to notice the old man. He was about five feet, and slim; his hair was quite gray, his face pale and cheeks sunken. The only still youthful thing about him were his large blue eyes which at this moment, were burning with indignation. "Say, Mr. Policeman," he called out to the officer who was escorting us to the police headquarters, "I am 30 years in this country and a citizen, too, and this ride is the only thing I ever got free in this country of freedom without working for it and, you know, you are quite generous to take me with all these fine young girls," he said humorously. The officer smiled sarcastically and said, "Don't you like this country? Why don't you go back to Russia?" "To Russia," the old man repeated, "Why to Russia? I come from Germany—Berlin. You know where Berlin is? And I told you I am an American citizen. Ha, ha, ha!" the old man laughed good naturedly, "that is one on you, Mr. Policeman!"

By this time we reached the police station, were registered and shipped off to jail. On the wagon again, the old man was beside me. "Are we going far," he asked. "A few minutes' ride, I believe." "Will we be together in one cell?" "I don't know," I answered. "I wish we were," he said. "You see, I would like to talk to you and tell you a little more of

my life." When we reached the jail we were separated. The men were put in one cell and the women in another right along side of it so we could hear each other talk. Just as soon as I entered the cell I could hear the old man singing, "Arise, Ye Prisoners of Starvation." We all joined in. I heard someone sobbing in our cell. I turned around and noticed three young girls between the ages of 18 and 20, not belonging to the group of strikers. They had been in the cell before we got there. It was one of them who was crying. "What are you crying about?" I asked. "Oh, your singing, I cannot stand it. How can anyone sing who is arrested?" "You see, my dear," I explained, "we are strikers and have nothing to worry about. We expect to get out of here soon. Why are you in here?" I asked. "We are three friends from out of town. For almost a month we have been looking for work and we cannot find any. We were picked up by a cop last night for disorderly conduct." She broke down once more and cried bitterly. The strikers continued singing labor songs. Two hours later we were dismissed and back in the strike hall.

The old man was persistent. "Do you think we will win this strike?" he asked. "I hope so," I answered. "I hope so, too," he said. "I have had a hard life. I am 56 years old. I have gone through a number of strikes and never had the luck to win one. I have always been double-crossed in the shops where I worked by weak people who did not have the patience to fight it out. I was always the last one to stay out on strike, but now I am a little afraid. I am getting old, you see, and it will be quite hard for me to get another job. I have three children—my oldest boy was three years in college when he had a nervous breakdown. He is in an institution now. I always hoped he would be a doctor but God knows what will happen now. My other two children—a fine girl and another boy—I would like to see them through school. Maybe with a better education they will not have to struggle as hard as I do. And the poor wife. She had a hard life with me!"

He put his hand to his mouth as if he was making an attempt to suppress something. I noticed two big tears, like pearls, rolling down his pale, sunken cheeks. "Oh, forgive me," he said, "I think I am taking advantage of you. How foolish of me." He took out a handkerchief, dried his face, got up and walked off. The following morning I met him on the picket line with a little worn-out woman on his arm. "This is my wife—Rosie" he said to me. "I told her all about you and the arrest and so she insisted on coming out on the picket line today."



## Dynamite

The Story of Class Violence in America, by Louis Adamic. The Viking Press, New York. Price \$3.50.

If Mr. Adamic had in mind to write a "thriller," his "Dynamite" has probably partly attained the purpose. If, on the other hand, he aimed to present a fair study of "class violence in America," his book might best have been left unwritten.

For "Dynamite" is not only an unfair, poorly balanced book, it is also a mischievous book. To begin with, the field through which its author plows is, despite pretenses to familiarity, largely unknown land to him. Next, the book is written around a preconceived thesis, which Mr. Adamic laboriously strives to prove by integrating by-products into basic strategy and by endeavoring to build up incidentals into major, controlling factors.

Besides, the book is filled with a shrieking partisanship which clumsily stares out of every page and chapter. Mr. Adamic has a set of well-fixed likes and dislikes, and these sympathies and antipathies run riot through the whole book and rob it of every vestige of objectivity without which an historic appraisal of any kind is worthless.

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Early in his book Mr. Adamic commits himself to the proposition that "desperation" is the leit-motif of the trade union movement in the United States. Essentially, to him, it is a "belly-hunger" movement. Its policies and tactics, naturally, are dictated by "desperation." From the Molly Maguires, the "first labor racketeers," to use Adamic's phrase, violence, or "dynamite—that's the stuff," has been the vibrating cord in the spine of the workers' organizations, the "guts" within it. No other element or factor seems to count, it is the only "real stuff" that employers fear and tremble before. Every gain achieved by the workers, every dramatic advance of the labor movement in the past half century, Mr. Adamic sees chiefly through this dynamite-stained perspective. According to him, until the MacNamaras' confession, the American Federation of Labor had tacitly endorsed the policy of "dynamite" as a major tactic against employers, and only after that tragedy began openly to disavow it. And when, in 1919, the Amer-

ican trade unions "for the first time" attempted a large-scale non-violence strike—the steel strike—it failed because "obviously, non-violence was a poor method of winning demands from employers."

In other words, if we are to use Mr. Adamic's yardstick, every achievement gained by the trade unions since they had emerged on the American labor scene has been due to this "dynamite—that's the stuff" panacea. The printers, the cigarmakers, the railway workers, the garment makers, the machinists, the car men, all the skilled mechanics in most of the key industries, all of them have won their work hours and their wage scales across the span of four or five decades by the overt or covert use of violence or "dynamite."

But even though officially the A. F. of L. unions, says Mr. Adamic, had later denounced bombings, they took to hiring gangsters to do the dirty work for them. For, says he, from dynamite to "racketeering" is but one short logical step. And thus Adamic proceeds to aver that the "technique of racketeering, its development and its tools are to be traced to the class struggle." Moreover, in citing a list of bombings and violent incidents which occurred in the United States since May 1925 to the end of 1930, Adamic blandly declares that most of these were "probably" perpetrated by racketeers hired by men connected with labor unions, or by union men themselves. In fact, after one closes Adamic's book, one can but with difficulty escape the inference that the author is convinced that the entire criminality existing in our larger cities is directly the result of the "violence" and "desperation" which are the mainsprings of trade union activity.

• • •

How, and by what historic proof does Mr. Adamic support his thesis or allegations? From the account of his life—he is still in his early thirties—he appears never to have been a member of a labor union. He has a decided aversion for the A. F. of L., though here and there he is forced to admit that "he has not done complete justice to the A. F. of L. unions." In fact, in one place he actually sneers at "left wing radicals and liberal intellectuals" who are forever finding fault with A. F. of L. policy and tactics. Mr. Adamic also finds the "old I. W. W." and Bill Haywood's frank advocacy of violence and sabotage "immeasurably more sympathetic" than the attitude and practice of the A. F. of L. unions. We are further told that in collecting material for his book Mr. Adamic had browsed through miles of labor literature, spoken to a number of labor leaders and to a great many employers of labor, interviewed some racketeers,

gangsters, bootleggers and hijackers, and has drawn from this checkered information testimony for his sensational verdict.

We should not like to clutter this brief review with a lot of quotations that might illustrate the quality of Mr. Adamic's "proof." As this journal, however, is read largely by garment workers, men and women who follow with close interest the trials and tribulations of their own organization and who are familiar with all high spots in its history, we should like to quote here a short passage from Mr. Adamic's book, a perfect illustration, in our judgment, of his regard for facts and data, and a sample of what is presented in his opus as a "straight-forward document, a sensationally graphic yet honest account." On page 338-339 he says:

"Certain garment-trades unions in New York are notoriously racketeering outfits. In 1927, the year before he was murdered, Aronold Rothstein, a Manhattan gang chief, was a big factor in the great furriers' and garment workers' strikes, furnishing the unions with strong-arm talent and 'fixing' the police lest they club the strikers. For his services he received fees running into hundreds of thousands of dollars. Since then about a dozen garment manufacturers have been assassinated. The last assassination in the garment trades, as I write this, occurred during a strike in February, 1930."

Which garment-trades unions in New York are "notoriously racketeering outfits?" There are in New York, as every reader of our journal knows, women's garment workers unions, men's clothing workers' unions, fur workers' unions, and cap and millinery workers' union. These unions have all earned for themselves a solid standing in the American labor movement, and in the New York community, for their achievements as alert, progressive organizations, which have in the course of a generation changed work conditions and standards in their respective industries from a former sweatshop status to as high a level as may be found in any American industry. They were among the first in the country to introduce permanent machinery for impartial arbitration, which has since become a model for many other industries. Even a slight familiarity with their history and methods should forbid an honest student from referring to them as "notoriously racketeering outfits."

To what extent Mr. Adamic is ignorant of essential facts, or is designedly slurring over commonly known events, in garment trades unions' history, is evident from the part of the above quotation in which he refers to "Aronold Rothstein, Manhattan gang chief." Now, if Mr. Adamic had wanted to be fair or reasonably careful with his statements, he



# The Month in Local 10

By SAMUEL PERLMUTTER

## Cloak Industry Beginning To Show Signs of Life

After a number of weeks of dullness in the cloak trade, quite a number of manufacturers are beginning to place cutters at work. Among the early starters are the Sport and Pile Fabric houses and manufacturers producing the finer line of work.

Some of the prominent manufacturers, with whom the writer discussed the prospects of the coming season, have expressed a hope for a bright future for the industry pointing to the fact that the vast majority of cloak firms have come to realize that it is ruinous to the industry to stack up racks with merchandise; instead of cutting up garments by the thousand, thus creating an overproduction, they have changed their methods and are now cutting enough to meet the immediate demands of the consumer. If this practice continues, not only will it make possible for the manufacturers to receive the price for the value of the garments, but it will also give the workers an opportunity to get more work.

## Miss Bobs Cutters Heavily Fined

As previously reported the cutters of Miss Bobs Coats were summoned to the Executive Board on the charge of having worked illegal hours. The cutters were informed by the Board that, unless they make a clean breast of prevailing conditions in that shop with regard to overtime, etc., they would not be permitted to work in the shop and were ordered to report to the office on the following day. The following morning, when the cutters appeared at the

office, Manager Perlmutter advised them that if they confessed to the true conditions existing in the shop, not only would he collect back pay for overtime, but would also request the Executive Board to be lenient with them.

The cutters did not heed the admonition of the manager and still insisted that conditions in that shop were right. In the meantime, the Industrial Council filed a complaint against Local 10, charging the office with having caused a stoppage of the cutters in the Bobs shop. Manager Perlmutter replied that the office would not object to the return of the cutters to work if the firm would immediately submit to an investigation of its books. Before the Association was able to inform the office of their decision, Manager Perlmutter communicated with the firm directly and, after negotiating a while, succeeded in collecting \$300 as back pay.

The Executive Board decided that Brother Jacob Waldman, the head cutter, who was found to be responsible for sub-standard conditions in the cutting department, be fined \$150.00, and that he also deposit a security of \$100.00, to guarantee his future behavior. Brother Abe Bronschweig was fined \$125.00, and Brother Sam Lipton \$125.00. The decision of the Executive Board in this case was unanimously accepted by the general membership meeting on June 8.

## Banner Cloak Pays \$3,000 Back Pay to Workers

About six months ago, the Banner Cloak, a manufacturer employing a regular set of workers for a number of years, including four cutters, was granted a reduction of wages in consideration of

a seventeen-weeks' guarantee given to the workers.

An agreement was made between the Joint Board and the firm that the workers were to be guaranteed seventeen weeks of employment within a period beginning January 1 and ending June 1, 1931. Arrangements were also made that the difference between the original and the reduced wages be placed in a separate fund, the full amount to be returned to the firm after it had fulfilled its obligation. It developed later that the firm complied with its contract, and by May 1, the workers received seventeen full weeks of employment. The firm then requested General Manager Nagler to return to it approximately \$3,000 of the accumulated fund, and Nagler agreed to return the money to them with the proviso that the original wages of the workers would at once be restored. To this the firm agreed, but a few days later called in the workers and announced that they decided to give up manufacturing and would become jobbers. When this information reached the Union, the Merchants' Ladies Garment Association, to whom the firm had filed an application for membership, was notified by the Union that it would object to the application of the Banner Cloak on the ground that it had obtained the \$3,000 under false pretenses. This matter was finally submitted to impartial Chairman Ingersoll, who sided with the Union and reprimanded the firm for the manner in which they acted in securing their money back.

The firm was thereupon declared on strike, with the result that they were forced to remit \$3,000 to the workers.

## E. B. Stand Endorsed

At an unusually well attended meeting held on June 8, the minutes of the Executive Board were discussed at length. Two recommendations caused quite a lengthy discussion. One was that in reference to the Quality Dress, over which quite a great deal of agitation and misunderstanding was created.

It was several times reported in "Justice," as well as by Manager Perlmutter at meetings, that the dress industry is troubled with a cutting-up system, especially in the very cheap line. Large dress shops within the last year or so have opened up cutting departments, cutting all their garments inside and sending them out to contractors to be made up. In most cases they employ but a few mechanics while the rest of the workers are boys, who do the stretching, etc. Local 10 has at no time closed its eyes to this growing evil. During the past seasons, Local 10 has constantly engaged in organization drives and succeeded in organizing a considerable number of cut-

(Continued on Page 16)

should have taken the pains to learn at least the incontrovertible fact that Arnold Rothstein was brought into those strikes not by the A. F. of L. leadership of these unions but during that unfortunate spell in 1926 when the cloakmakers' and furriers' unions in New York City were captured by the Communists, who at once plunged the cloak and fur industries into prolonged and disastrous strikes. The result of these strikes was the ouster of the Communists from control and the gradual restoration of these unions to their former strength and influence in industry. By their own admission, the Communists have since been entirely eliminated as a factor in the garment trades, and their so-called industrial dual union, formed subsequent-

ly to compete with and to supersede the legitimate union organization in the garment industries, is now practically a memory. Yet, Mr. Adamic, quite nonchalantly and with the air of one who knows, does not hesitate to remark in another chapter of his book that "on the left, the Communists are making considerable progress; they are capturing unions, especially in such ill-paid trades as the textiles and garment industries."

We are inclined to rest our appraisal of Mr. Adamic's fitness for writing a history of "class violence in America" on this sample. It is quite apparent that his equipment for the role of even a third-rate labor historian is woefully poor.

M. D. DANISH.

# The Month in Local 10

(Continued from Page 15)

ting departments, such as Platt Bros., Grayshire Dress, Noxall Dress, P. J. Barash, Truesize Dress, Regent Waist & Dress, Roberts Dress, Sam Rappaport, Tafule Gown, and a score of others. In all these cases the local succeeded in raising the wages of the cutters. Hours were also reduced in a number of cutting departments from fifty-four to forty-two and forty hours.

The Quality Dress was organized just prior to the last dress general strike. In this cutting department, before it was organized, cutters worked unlimited hours and were being hired and fired daily. Since this cutting department was unionized, hours of labor were reduced, and cutters are no longer hired and fired at the will and whim of the employer as before. Instead the foreman was made to understand that every cutter employed in this shop must be a member of Local 10, and must present a working card in order to be able to remain there.

It so happened that a certain Brother, Jack Goldstein, secured employment in the above mentioned shop some few months ago and agreed with the employer to accept the job temporarily, and so, during a period of about four months, he had worked there 4 weeks on and off. He finally decided to quit the place and went up to the shop on a Saturday morning to take his tools when he discovered a few cutters at work. When he called at the office to ask Brother Oretsky about it, he was informed that the cutters worked that particular Saturday with the permission of the Union. He then appeared before the Executive Board calling the attention of that body to this matter. Assistant Manager Oretsky explained to the Executive Board the conditions in this particular shop and told the Board that if the cutters were denied permission to work on that Saturday, the firm would either send the work out-of-town to be cut in its non-union shops, or would engage girls to slope out the garments particularly required, and that he therefore thought it advisable to grant them permission. The

Executive Board upheld Oretsky's action.

This recommendation of the Executive Board caused a great deal of discussion. Brother Perlmutter pointed to the fact that, if there is anyone who believes that Brother Goldstein should be reinstated in the shop regardless of whether he only worked there a few weeks or a few years, he has a perfect right to move that action be taken against the firm even to the extent of declaring a strike against the shop, and, that if this move receives a majority vote, that shop would be declared on strike although the office may not think it wise. After a discussion, in which Brother Charles Stein and Samuel Martin participated, the recommendation of the Executive Board was carried by an overwhelming majority.

Another case which attracted wide attention of the membership was that of Samuel Greenberg and Samuel Welsh, who appeared before the Executive Board on Thursday, May 26, Brother Welsh having charged Brother Greenberg with attempting to assault him.

Brother Charles Stein in a very passionate speech declared that the issue, to him, is not Samuel Greenberg, it is the office that is involved, and further insinuated that Manager Perlmutter instigated Brother Greenberg to beat him up. He, therefore, appealed to the members to reject the decision of the Executive Board which is as follows:

"After a long and animated discussion it is the consensus of opinion of the Executive Board, expressing its condemnation against the act of any member to infringe upon the safety of any other member or outsider, who happens to be within the confines of the organization, in any shape, manner, or form, and on many previous occasions the Executive Board meted out punishment for such offenses. In this case likewise, the Executive Board does not condone the action. After listening to the testimony of both brothers in question, it could not possibly be proved with any degree of accuracy as to who was the one who provoked or caused this quarrel, and furthermore it is a known fact that, while the Executive Board or General Meetings are not in session, the elected officers are responsible for all occurrences in the office and any member who encounters mistreatment in any shape, manner, or form should immediately report to the proper officers and request protection. In this case Brother Welsh failed to do so until some days had elapsed and therefore made it impossible for the office

or for the Executive Board, to ascertain the facts in the case.

"It was therefore decided that both brothers be instructed as to their future conduct and be further advised to immediately report such matters to the proper authorities so that action can be taken."

Brother Perlmutter, in his reply to the insinuations made by Brother Stein, stated that he does not intend to enter into a discussion with regard to it, but is perfectly satisfied to leave it to the judgment of the members present. The decision of the Executive Board was approved by a rousing and overwhelming vote.

## Many Members Debate at Good and Welfare Meeting

At the meeting held on Monday, June 15, a fairly representative crowd gathered to discuss the "Good and Welfare" of the organization.

Among the score of speakers who participated in the discussion, were Brother Jack Kops, delegate to the Central Trades and Labor Council, who gave a general resume of conditions that prevail in other industries and stressed the fact that the standards of the women's garment cutters stand superior, by comparison, to many other trades.

Brothers Harry Reichel, Isidore Goze, David Selig, Ignatz Fischer, Sam Martin and many others spoke along the same lines. Some of the speakers expressed the thought that "notwithstanding the general depression that exists the country over, members of organized labor should at all times stand united and strengthen their forces against the employers and defend their conditions against all attacks."

Manager Perlmutter expressed satisfaction with the spirit of this meeting, looking forward to similar meetings in the future.

## Attention CUTTERS OF LOCAL TEN

The meetings for the following month will take place in the order as herein arranged.

1. Regular Membership Meeting  
MONDAY, JUNE 29, 1931
2. Regular Membership Meeting  
MONDAY, JULY 13, 1931
3. Regular Membership Meeting  
MONDAY, JULY 27, 1931

All the above meetings are to be held in ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place, at 7:30 P. M.

Cutters are urged to attend these meetings without fail.

Books will be stamped signifying attendance and the \$1.00 fine for Non-attendance will be strictly enforced.

## CUTTERS, SECURE YOUR WORKING CARDS

All Cloak, Dress, Reefer and Raincoat Cutters must secure working cards when obtaining a new job.

Any member found working without a new working cards will be called before the Executive Board and disciplined.